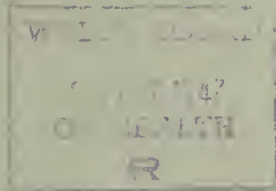


LIBRARY



BUILTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1946.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector..Mr.J.Evans,M.R.S.I.,part of year.
Mr.C.H.Wright,M.S.I.A.,part of
year.



BUILTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District for the year 1946.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 28/46 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1946.

Area.....109,271 acres.
 Population (Census 1931).....4246.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1946).....3661.
 Number of inhabited houses.....1109.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate.	26.	23.	49.	13.0.
Illegitimate.	2.	2.	4.	1.5.
	<u>28.</u>	<u>25.</u>	<u>53.</u>	<u>14.5.</u>

Still Births.	2.	1.	3.	0.81.
Deaths from all causes.	19.	21.	40.	10.8.

Maternal Deaths...Nil.

Deaths under one year;

All infants.....5. Rate per 1000 live births.....94.
 Legitimate infants.....4.

Deaths from special causes;

Infectious disease...one.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....one.

Other tuberculous disease....Nil.

Cancer.....5.

AREA.

The Builth Rural District is a large area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and consists of almost one fifth of the whole county.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.

There are no large towns in the district.

POPULATION. Census 1931....4246.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
3731.	3895.	4343.	4103.	3901.	3869.	3753.	3661.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has dropped considerably

Builth Rural District.

since the last census was taken.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1199, giving an average number of 3.3 persons per house.

BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1939.....			54.....	14.4.
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3.
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8.
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0.
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5.
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6.
1945.....	29.....	25.....	54.....	14.3.
1946.....	28.....	25.....	53.....	14.5.
England & Wales, 1946.....				16.1.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			47.....	12.2.
1939.....			48.....	12.7.
1940.....	29.....	19.....	48.....	12.5.
1941.....	34.....	25.....	59.....	13.7.
1942.....	22.....	28.....	50.....	12.2.
1943.....	27.....	17.....	44.....	11.2.
1944.....	19.....	14.....	33.....	8.6.
1945.....	27.....	13.....	40.....	10.6.
1946.....	19.....	21.....	40.....	10.8.
England and Wales, 1946.....				11.5.

The deathrate for 1946 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	0.7.
1939.....			7.....	1.8.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
1941.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	1.1.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.4.
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5.
1946.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.81.
England and Wales, 1946.....				0.53.

The stillbirth rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

Builth Rural District.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	28.
1939.....			4.....	74.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	52.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	18.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	30.
1943.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	69.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1946.....	3.....	2.....	5.....	94.
England and Wales, 1946.....				43.

The infantile mortality rate for 1946 was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

Males..19. Females..21.

Cause.Males. Females.

Pulmonary tuberculosis.....	1.....	0.
Cancer stomach.....	1.....	0.
Cancer uterua.....	0.....	1.
Cancer breast.....	0.....	1.
Cancer other sites.....	0.....	2.
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	2.....	1.
Heart disease.....	7.....	10.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	3.
Other respiratory disease.....	0.....	1.
Digestive diseases.....	1.....	0.
Nephritis.....	1.....	0.
Congenital malformations.....	2.....	0.
Prematurity.....	0.....	2.
Acute poliomyelitis.....	1.....	0.
Violent causes.....	1.....	0.
All other causes.....	2.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes.

ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Builth Rural residents during 1946 amounted to 4.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths in the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. On the 13th March, 1946, Mr. John Evans, who had acted as your Sanitary Inspector for many years, was replaced by Mr. C. E. Wright. Mr. Wright remained as Sanitary Inspector for the rest of the year.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Laboratory at Builth Wells.

Ambulance Facilities.

There was no change in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. Motor ambulances, maintained by Merthyr Borough, convey patients suffering from infectious disease to Merthyr Isolation Hospital. The St. John's Ambulance Association meets the needs of the other patients requiring removal to hospital.

Home Nursing. The arrangements made by the local district nursing association render the services of a trained nurse available for any family in the district on payment of a small contribution. Such provision deserves every encouragement and support.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Park House, Park Road, Builth and the War Memorial Institute, Llanwrttyd. Ante-natal clinics are also held in Builth and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are also available. In addition clinics are held by me at the Builth Council School, on the morning of the 2nd Monday of each month, and in Llanwrttyd War Memorial Institute, on the afternoon of the 1st Friday in each month, for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fodw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying. A modern steam disinfecter with the necessary vehicles for the conveyance of infected clothes and bedding would be of great use in the district.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, treatment for dental, eye and orthopaedic defects and also expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived from springs. On the whole the quality of the water has been satisfactory but the quantity cannot be regarded as having been adequate. This was mainly due to breakdowns in the pumping arrangements or leaks in the pipes.

Builth Rural District.

No long spell of dry weather was experienced during the year but, should this have happened I feel sure that considerable difficulty would have been experienced in supplying the district with water.

The major scheme, with the proposal to obtain water from Abergwessin and to supply water in bulk to the greater part of the district was still being considered by the Council during the year but no definite decision was reached. It is to be hoped that this or some other scheme can be introduced at an early date as, in my opinion, the water supply to the various parts of the district can hardly be considered adequate.

Number of inspections made by the sanitary inspector.....157.

Number of samples taken.....26.

Erwood Supply.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house...12.

Population thus supplied.....25.

No. of houses supplied by standpipes.....2.

Population thus supplied.....3.

Cricklarn.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house....13.

Population thus supplied.....32.

Gwenddwr.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house..1.

Population thus supplied.....2.

In addition there is one school and one school house supplied direct to the premises.

No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....11.

Population thus supplied.....29.

Gilmery.

No. of houses supplied direct to house.....18.

Population thus supplied.....60.

No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....7.

Population thus supplied.....21.

In addition one school and one school house are supplied direct.

Cefnigorwydd.

No. of houses supplied direct.....10.

Population thus supplied.....30.

No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....9.

Population thus supplied.....8.

Garth.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house...8.

Population thus supplied.....22.

No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....12.

Population thus supplied.....35.

The Oaklands part of the parish of Llandewicwn is supplied from the Builth Urban supply. The village of Llanwrthwl is supplied by a standpipe and a new scheme for supplying this village is being considered by the Council.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no sewerage scheme to any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of the parish of Llandewicwn which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer. No new works or additions were made during the

Builth Rural District.

year but a scheme for the disposal of sewage in the village of Llanwrthwl was being considered.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing. Only one part of the district has a recognised system of refuse collection and that is the Oaklands part of Llanfawcwm from which refuse is collected once a fortnight by a local contractor.

A proper system of refuse collection for the whole of the district combined with the establishment of definite tipping sites remain a pressing need of the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was under taken by your Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. John Evans and Mr. C. H. Wright. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....7.
 Number of complaints investigated.....7.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....2.

There has been great difficulty during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is largely of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....14.

Factories.

The number of factories in district....3 and one bakehouse.
 Number of visits made.....6.
 Number of notices served.....1.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin during the year.

Rodent Control. Two rodent operatives are employed to deal with the work of rat destruction. These operatives are also employed by the Councils of Builth Urban and Llanwrtyl Urban, and worked under the supervision mainly of the Builth Urban Sanitary Inspector.

Builth Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....12.
 Number of premises found infested.....4.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operatives..4
 Number of rats estimated killed63.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing situation was acute. The Council had under consideration plans for houses in different parts of the district but, at the end of the year little progress had been made in the actual construction of these houses. It is to be hoped that labour conditions and the supply of materials will show some improvement during the coming year so that this pressing need in the district may be alleviated.

Number of house to house inspections made.....11..

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk.Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies.....52.

Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt should be made by the Sanitary Inspector to test each retailer's milk every two weeks. Wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratory functioning under this scheme is situated at Builth Wells.

Under this scheme milk is graded into the following categories;

Category A.....Milk of good keeping quality.
 Category B.....Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
 Category C.....Milk of poor keeping quality.

Number of samples taken during the year by the sanitary inspector.....35.
 Number of samples in Category A.....34.
 Number of samples in Category B.....1.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all the meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in the Colwyn Rural District.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....10.
 Number of pounds condemned.....25.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....1.

Ice Cream Premises. There are no retailers of ice cream in the district.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported to me during the year;

Acute influenzal pneumonia.....1 case.
Ophthalmia neonatorum.....2 cases.

The district therefore remained free from any outbreak of infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Lye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years;

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year...11.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....4.
Number of deaths during the year.....1.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....3.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....1.
Number of cases left on register at the end of year.....10.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
2.	1.	1.	2.	0.	2.	3.	4.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. The places and dates of these clinics were advertised in the local press and also parents were advised that children should have a third injection when they reach school age. Continual efforts are being made by the County Council Health Visitors to get as many children as possible immunised.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31.12.46.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9.	10-15.
------------------	----------	----	----	----	----	------	--------

Number immunised.	0.	17.	29.	35.	20.	45.	11.
-------------------	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number immunised during the year.	Under 5.	5-15.	Third Inj.
	49.	16.	0.

It must be pointed out that individual record cards for children have only been kept since July 1st, 1943, and therefore the above figures only show those children actually immunised by me since that date. I have no records individually of children immunised before that date.

The following figures show the extent of immunising in the under five year group at the end of the year.

Number of children born in 1942.....	66.
Number of these children immunised since July 1st, 1943..	20.
Number of children born in 1943.....	76.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	34.
Number of children born in 1944.....	67.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	28.
Number of children born in 1945.....	54.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	18.
Number of children born in 1946.....	53.
Number of these children immunised by me at end of year.	0.

A certain number of children are continually being immunised by local general practitioners but, even allowing for this, the above figures cannot be regarded as being satisfactory. For immunising to be considered satisfactory the percentage of children immunised should be not less than 75% and the above figures do not reach that percentage.

No cases of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.

